first sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

2. (Amended) The nucleic acid fragment according to claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical, fully complementary, or antisense [or equivalent] to a second sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

5. (Amended) A probe for identifying Trypanosoma cruzi, said probe comprising a nucleotide sequence that is [hybridizable] fully complementary to at least a segment of five contiguous monomers of a nucleic acid [according to claim 1] consisting of a nucleotide sequence that is identical, fully complementary, or antisense to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

8. (Amended) A primer for amplifying a nucleotide sequence, said primer comprising a nucleotide sequence that [allows hybridization] is fully complementary to at least a segment of five contiguous monomers of a nucleic acid [according to claim 1] consisting of a nucleotide sequence that is identical, fully complementary, or antisense to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

Claim 10, line 3, delete "SEQ ID NO:7, ".

11. (Amended) A reagent for detecting or identifying Trypanosoma cruzi in a biological sample, said reagent comprising [at least one of] a capture probe and a detection probe in accordance with claim 5, [wherein said capture probe and said detection probe each comprise a nucleotide sequence that is hybridizable to at least a segment of a nucleic acid according to claim 1, and] wherein said capture probe and said detection probe[, if they are

C4 cont'd

both present,] have nucleotide sequences that are [at least partially] different from one another.

C5 Amd

17. (Amended) The reagent according to claim 11, further comprising at least one primer comprising a nucleotide sequence that [allows hybridization] is fully complementary to at least a segment of five contiguous monomers of a nucleic acid which comprises a nucleotide sequence that is identical, fully complementary, or antisense [or equivalent] to a first sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

C6 Sub D

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein before said DNA is exposed to said probe, said DNA is amplified in the presence of an enzymatic system with at least one primer, wherein said primer comprises a nucleotide sequence that is [hybridizable] fully complementary to at least a segment of five contiguous monomers of a nucleic acid sequence that is identical, fully complementary, or antisense [or equivalent] to a sequence identified in SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.

Please add the following new claims 21-35:

C1

--21. A synthetic or isolated nucleic acid fragment that comprises a nucleotide sequence having, for any succession of 30 contiguous monomers, at least 85% homology with 30 contiguous monomers of a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.--

--22. The nucleic acid fragment of claim 21, said nucleotide sequence having, for any succession of 30 contiguous monomers, at least 85% homology with 30 contiguous monomers of the sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.--

--23. The nucleic acid fragment of claim 21, said nucleotide sequence having, for any succession of 30 contiguous monomers, at least 85% homology with 30 contiguous monomers of the sequence starting at nucleotide 1266 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.--

--24. The nucleic acid fragment of claim 21, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical, fully complementary or antisense to a second nucleotide sequence starting at nucleotide 1266 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.--

--25. A probe according to claim 5, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical, fully complementary or antisense to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 1825 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.--

--26. A probe according to claim 5, wherein said nucleotide sequence is identical, fully complementary or antisense to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1266 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence.--

--27. A process for detecting and/or identifying Trypanosoma cruzi in a biological sample, comprising:

exposing DNA or RNA from the sample to a probe that hybridizes to a nucleotide sequence identical, fully complementary or antisense to a sequence starting at nucleotide 1232 and ending at nucleotide 2207 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the corresponding RNA sequence; and

detecting hybridization of the probe to said DNA or RNA to detect and/or identify Trypanosoma cruzi.--

--28. The probe of claim 5, wherein said probe contains no more than 100 nucleotides.--

--29. The probe of claim 28, wherein said probe contains 8 to 50 nucleotides.--

--30. The primer of claim 8, wherein said primer contains no more than 100 nucleotides.--

--31. The primer of claim 30, wherein said primer contains from 8 to 50 nucleotides.--

--32. The reagent of claim 17, wherein said primer contains no more than 100 nucleotides.--

--33. The reagent of claim 32, wherein said primer contains from 8 to 50 nucleotides.--

--34. The method of claim 20, wherein said primer contains no more than 100 nucleotides.--

--35. The method of claim 34, wherein said primer contains from 8 to 50 nucleotides.--

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-35 are pending. Claims 3 and 4 are canceled, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 17 and 20 are amended, and claims 21-35 are added herein.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-identified application on August 24, 1998. However, Applicants have not received back a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge consideration of the references disclosed therein. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return a copy of the acknowledged Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' undersigned representative.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended in order to overcome the rejection.